

GJO Employees and Their Children Learn the Importance of Safety




A boat resting on grass is a safe place to learn about water safety. Ken Pill, a MACTEC Environmental Restoration Services employee, teaches children safety techniques during the "Take Our Children To Work Day."

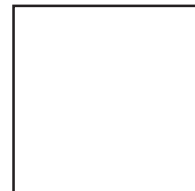
The Grand Junction Office (GJO) Safety Committee coordinated activities throughout June, designated as National Safety Month by the National Safety Council, that focused on skin care, defensive driving, outdoor safety, and workplace safety.

The committee posted a daily safety tip on the email bulletin board network pertaining to that week's safety topic. The committee also handed out safety-related goodies during the month, such as packets of sunscreen, bookmarks listing the safety committee's roster, key chains displaying a safety message, and waterproof safety kits. In addition, the GJO Training organization posted extensive defensive driving information on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) GJO website that includes maps, directions, and potential road hazards for routes often used by GJO employees on business or personal travel.

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 20 (back cover)

Emphasis on Safety

The GJO Safety Committee is a joint contractor committee consisting of nonmanagerial *WASTREN, Inc.*, and MACTEC Environmental Restoration Services (ERS) employees who meet on a regular basis to discuss safety and health issues affecting all GJO employees and who make recommendations for enhanced performance. "The purpose of the Safety Committee is to provide a means for employee participation in the safety and health program by ensuring employee concerns and suggestions are communicated to the appropriate management and are followed up by the committee representatives," says Vera Creagar, Safety Committee Chairperson. The Safety Committee is self-funded with the proceeds from site vending machines.

The committee's accomplishments so far this year include

- Arranged for cleanup of roadsides near the GJO facility by the City of Grand Junction for walkers and runners.
- Updated the emergency signals poster.
- Donated \$1,800 to the Mesa County Sheriff's Department and the Seniors and Law-Enforcement Together (SALT) Committee for the Safety Bicycle Rodeo held May 19, 2001. The money was used to purchase bike helmets and safety stickers for local youth.
- Donated \$550 to "Take Our Children To Work Day."
- Invited a guest speaker from a local construction company to speak to employees about truck traffic and safety at the GJO site.
- Recognized and rewarded six employees for their safe acts.

"The Safety Committee plans to continue to help make GJO a safe site for all employees," says Creagar.



A chance to "drive" construction equipment attracted youngsters visiting the Grand Junction Office during the annual "Take Our Children To Work Day."

Children Visit GJO Site

"Safety is a priority at the DOE-GJO" was the message hopefully conveyed to GJO employees' children in April during the site's annual "Take Our Children To Work Day." GJO expanded the national "Take Our Daughters To Work Day" to include sons of employees and more than 65 children of all ages visited the GJO site that day.

The GJO Safety Committee purchased "hard hats" that were personalized for the children, along with miscellaneous safety-related items. Children participated in a coloring contest that depicted safety scenes. Stops on a guided site tour emphasizing safety included a water safety demonstration, a vehicle safety display, and a visit with "Super Dan, the Safety Man." At the water-safety demonstration, the children learned some basic water safety techniques, such as wearing life jackets, swimming

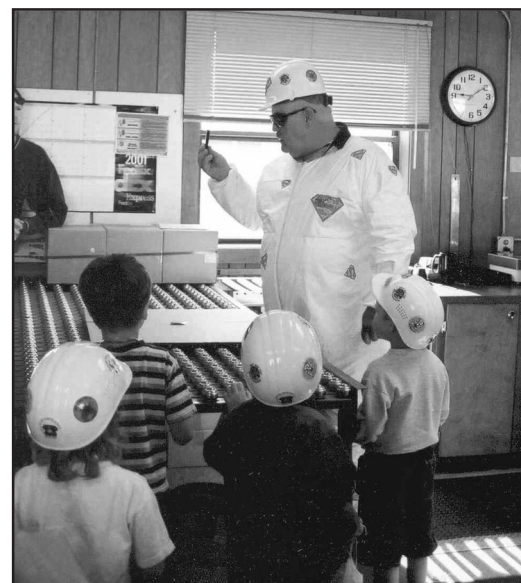


with a buddy, and what to do if they see someone drowning or struggling in the water.

The Colorado Highway Patrol brought the “seatbelt convincer,” which simulates what happens to a passenger in a 5-mile-per-hour impact who is wearing a seatbelt when the vehicle’s airbag deploys. Because numerous GJO employees must drive government vehicles as part of their jobs, this topic seemed especially appropriate to address as part of the tour. “My favorite part was the seatbelt display because it showed how you can get thrown out of a car in an accident if you don’t wear your seatbelt,” said Melinda Rukavina, daughter of MACTEC–ERS Quality Assurance Manager Ardis Rukavina.

Super Dan, the Safety Man, talked to the younger kids about a variety of general safety issues, such as stranger danger, home safety (avoiding chemicals, prescriptions, and cleansers and not playing with knives or scissors), and fire safety (not playing with matches or lighters). The older children also visited the on-site Environmental Sciences Laboratory and the newly remodeled Sample Preparation Facility.

“We wanted our children to learn about the safety issues we deal with at work that are just as important as the ones at home,” said Lisa Sharp, a buyer for *WASTREN* and a member of the GJO Safety Committee. The children also enjoyed a barbecue lunch at the site with their parents.❖



Super Dan, the Safety Man, emphasizes safe work tools and techniques to children wearing plastic “hard hats” during the “Take Our Children To Work Day” at the Grand Junction Office.